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Amendments To The Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for identifying playback devices of a plurality of client apparatuses which are networked to simultaneously playback an event, comprising the steps of:

receiving requests ~~prior to a start time~~ from each of the client apparatuses to simultaneously playback the event;

identifying a type of the playback device of each of the client apparatuses;

looking up a command associated with the identified type of the playback device;

determining whether each request is received during a predefined threshold period prior to <u>a start time of initially beginning</u> the simultaneous playback of the event; and

sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for <u>initially</u> beginning the playback of the event <u>at the start time</u> simultaneously with the playback of the event on each of the remaining client apparatuses for those requests received during the predefined threshold period, and sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for beginning the <u>simultaneous</u> playback of the event simultaneously at a predetermined point during the playback for those requests not received during the threshold period.

Claim 2 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the event includes a video and audio presentation.

Claim 3 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the type of the playback device is identified utilizing the network.

Claim 4 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is a wide area network.

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Claim 5 (Original): A method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of storing on the client apparatus an identifier of a host server that sent the command.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising playing a digital video disc (DVD) during the event.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for identifying playback devices of a plurality of client apparatuses which are networked to simultaneously playback an event, comprising:

a code segment for receiving requests ~~prior to a start time~~ from each of the client apparatuses to simultaneous playback the event;

a code segment for identifying a type of the playback device of each of the client apparatuses;

a code segment for looking up a command associated with the identified type of the playback device;

a code segment for determining whether each request is received during a predefined threshold period prior to <u>a start time of initially beginning</u> the simultaneous playback of the event; and

a code segment for sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for <u>initially</u> beginning the playback of the event <u>at the start time</u> simultaneously with the playback of the event on each of the remaining client apparatuses for those requests received during the predefined threshold period, and sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for beginning the <u>simultaneous</u> playback of the event simultaneously at a predetermined point during the playback for those requests not received during the threshold period.

Claim 8 (Original): A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the event includes a video and audio presentation.

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Claim 9 (Original): A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the type of the playback device is identified utilizing the network.

Claim 10 (Original): A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the network is a wide area network.

Claim 11 (Original): A computer program as recited in claim 7, and further comprising a code segment for storing on the client apparatus an identifier of a host server that sent the command.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A computer program as recited in claim 7 further comprising a code segment for playing a digital video disc (DVD) during the event.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A system for identifying playback devices of a plurality of client apparatuses which are networked to simultaneously playback an event, comprising:

logic for receiving requests ~~prior to a start time~~ from each of the client apparatuses to simultaneous playback the event;

logic for identifying a type of the playback device of each of the client apparatuses;

logic for looking up a command associated with the identified type of the playback device;

logic for determining whether each request is received during a predefined threshold period prior to <u>a start time of initially beginning</u> the simultaneous playback of the event; and

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logic for sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for <u>initially</u> beginning the playback of the event <u>at the start time</u> simultaneously with the playback of the event on each of the remaining client apparatuses for those requests received during the predefined threshold period, and sending the command to the corresponding client apparatus for beginning the <u>simultaneous</u> playback of the event simultaneously at a predetermined point during the playback for those requests not received during the threshold period.

Claim 14 (Original): A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the event includes a video and audio presentation.

Claim 15 (Original): A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the type of the playback device is identified utilizing the network.

Claim 16 (Original): A system as recited in claim 13, wherein the network is a wide area network.

Claim 17 (Original): A system as recited in claim 13, and further comprising logic for storing on the client apparatus an identifier of a host server that sent the command.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A system as recited in claim 13 further comprising logic for playing a digital video disc (DVD) during the event.